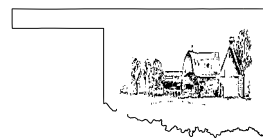


OKLAHOMA CROP-WEATHER

March 24, 2003



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A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Thunderstorms and Isolated Tornadoes Hit Parts of the State

March 23 - Severe thunderstorms spawned tornadoes last week in parts of the Southwest District causing isolated damage. This same storm system produced some much needed rain across most of the State but also produced hail in some areas. The Northeast District received the most precipitation with 2.70 inches while the Southwest District received the least at 0.35 inches. Wet conditions have delayed corn planting and seedbed preparation for other crops. Soil moisture conditions improved from last week and both topsoil and subsoil moisture were rated in mostly adequate condition. Farmers had 3.3 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	6	16	70	8
Last Week	7	35	56	2
Last Year	38	22	28	12

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	5	23	68	4
Last Week	7	27	65	1
Last Year	44	24	26	6

Small Grains: The combination of sunny days, cool nights, and some rain have improved wheat growth. Statewide, 70 percent of the wheat was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 65 percent from last week. Wheat jointing increased 18 points from last week to 53 percent and was ahead of the 5-year average of 45 percent.

Row Crops: Producers made progress in row crop seedbed preparation in areas where conditions allowed; however, many fields were too wet to advance Statewide. At weeks end, cotton and peanut seedbed prepared were at 37 and 17 percent respectively, while sorghum and soybeans were both at 20 percent. Corn planting began in scattered areas with 10 percent complete compared to 6 percent last year.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT Week Ending March 23, 2003

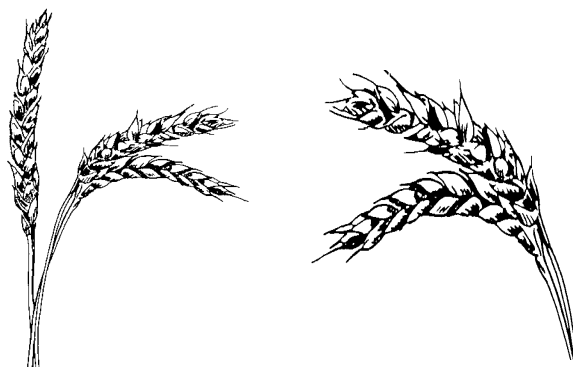
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat	1	5	24	56	14
Rye	1	5	20	62	12
Oats	3	6	34	54	3

Pasture: Statewide, range and pasture conditions were rated fair to good. Pasture benefitted from the moisture and warmer days last week and began to exhibit some new growth. Some producers were beginning to fertilize cool season pasture prior to the rain halting those activities.

Livestock: Livestock were rated in mostly fair to good condition. Cattle auctions reported marketings were slightly below average. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week and averaged \$80.06 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased slightly from last week and averaged \$75.46 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT Week Ending March 23, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	5	37	54	4
Pasture & Range	5	15	49	30	1



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OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS

Week Ending March 23, 2003

Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat - Jointing	53	35	26	45	Sorghum - Seedbed Prepared	20	17	14	15
Oats - Planted	89	85	92	89	Soybeans - Seedbed Prepared	20	18	15	23
Jointing	5	1	4	17	Peanuts - Seedbed Prepared	17	12	26	18
Corn - Seedbed Prepared	38	32	35	32	Cotton - Seedbed Prepared	37	32	43	37
Planted	10	n/a	6	3					

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 23, 2003 - Temperatures ranged from 22 degrees at Boise City on Tuesday, March 18th to 82 degrees at Altus on Monday, March 17th. Precipitation averaged 0.35 in. Southwest district to 2.70 in. Northeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 43 degrees at Hooker on Friday, March 21st to 65 degrees at Burneyville on Monday, March 17th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

Week Ending March 23, 2003

Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to March 23, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	61	39	50	1.16	1.25	+ 0.04	103
West Central	62	44	53	0.57	0.58	- 1.20	33
Southwest	65	43	54	0.35	0.51	- 1.16	31
North Central	62	44	53	1.96	2.26	+ 0.28	114
Central	64	45	54	1.37	1.69	- 0.72	70
South Central	66	46	55	0.94	1.27	- 1.36	48
Northeast	64	45	55	2.70	2.75	+ 0.03	101
East Central	66	45	55	1.86	2.20	- 0.83	73
Southeast	67	50	55	1.38	2.02	- 1.30	61